

### **Amendments to the Claims:**

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

### **Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (Previously Presented) Use of a composition capable of inhibiting glucocorticoid-induced chronic stress in a dermal cell or a cell involved in skin inflammatory responses in the manufacture of a composition for use in reducing the effects of psychologically-mediated stress on the skin of a human or animal, wherein said manufacture involves incorporating in the composition, a first substance selected from the group consisting of ginseng Rb1, ginseng Rc, curcumin, 22-OH-cholesterol, ciglitazone, mevinolin, commiphelic acid, okadaic acid, liquorice extract and mixtures thereof; and a second substance selected from the group consisting of wolfberry extract, shiitake extract, activin, ginseng Rb1, ginseng Rc, curcumin, ciglitazone, commiphelic acid, boswellia extract and mixtures thereof, provided that said first substance and second substance are different.

Claim 2 (Original) Use according to claim 1 wherein the composition is administered orally.

Claim 3 (Original) Use according to claim 1 wherein the composition is administered topically.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented) A method of reducing the effects of psychologically-mediated stress on the skin of a human or animal which method comprises administering to the individual a composition capable of inhibiting glucocorticoid-induced chronic stress in a dermal cell or a cell involved in skin inflammatory responses, said method including the step of preparing the composition by incorporating therein, a first substance selected from the group consisting of ginseng Rb1, ginseng Rc, curcumin, 22-OH-cholesterol, ciglitazone, mevinolin, commiphelic

acid, okadaic acid, liquorice extract and mixtures thereof; and a second substance selected from the group consisting of wolfberry extract, shiitake extract, activin, ginseng Rbl, ginseng Rc, curcumin, ciglitazone, commiphelic acid, boswellia extract and mixtures thereof, provided that said first substance and second substance are different.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 4 wherein the composition is administered orally.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 4 wherein the composition is administered orally.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended) ~~Use according to any of claims 1 to 3 or a~~A method according to ~~any of claims 5 to 8~~claim 4 wherein the composition is in the form of a nutritional supplement or a cosmetic composition.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented) A method for identifying a compound capable of reducing the effects of psychologically-mediated stress on the skin of a human or animal, which method comprises:

- (i) contacting a dermal cell or a cell involved in skin inflammatory responses with a candidate compound in the presence of a glucocorticoid receptor agonist under conditions and for a period of time that would, in the absence of the candidate compound, lead to the cell being chronically stressed;
- (ii) subjecting the cell to acute stress;
- (iii) analysing one or more cellular markers selected from a marker of inflammatory cell recruitment, where the cell is a cell involved in skin inflammatory responses, a marker of matrix degradation, where the cell is a dermal cell and/or a marker of matrix synthesis in the cell, where the cell is a dermal cell; and
- (iv) determining whether the candidate compound affects the status of the one or more cellular markers.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 8 wherein step (iv) comprises comparing the status of said markers in the presence of the candidate compound with the status of said markers in the absence of the candidate compound.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 8 ~~or claim 9~~ wherein the marker of inflammatory cell recruitment is the level of expression of ICAM-1.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of claims 8 to 10~~ claim 8 wherein the marker of matrix degradation is the level of expression of MMP-1 and/or MMP-9.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of claims 8 to 11~~ claim 8 wherein the marker of matrix synthesis is the level of expression of procollagen-1.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of claims 8 to 12~~ claim 8 wherein the acute stress is oxidative stress.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of claims 8 to 14~~ claim 8 wherein the period of time in step (i) is at least 4 days.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented) A method of producing a composition for reducing the effects of psychologically-mediated stress on the skin of a human or animal which method comprises

- (i) contacting a dermal cell or a cell involved in skin inflammatory responses with a candidate compound in the presence of a glucocorticoid receptor agonist under conditions and for a period of time that would, in the absence of the candidate compound, lead to the cell being chronically stressed;
- (ii) subjecting the cell to acute stress;
- (iii) analysing one or more cellular markers selected from a marker of inflammatory cell recruitment, where the cell is a cell involved in skin inflammatory responses; a

marker of matrix degradation, where the cell is a dermal cell; and/or a marker of matrix synthesis in the cell, where the cell is a dermal cell;

(iv) determining whether the candidate compound affects the status of the one or more cellular markers;

(v) selecting a candidate compound identified in (iv) as affecting the status of the one or more cellular markers; and

(vi) admixing said compound with a cosmetically or pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.